

# THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

VOL. XIV.

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BROWN ON SURGICAL DISEASES OF WOMEN. TWELVE PAGES.

### MEDICAL PROGRESS.

*American Medical Association.*—The ninth annual meeting of this Association was held in the city of Detroit, Mich., in Fireman's Hall. The session was opened on Tuesday, May 6, at 11 o'clock A. M. The President, Dr. Geo. B. Wood, of Pennsylvania, in the chair.

Dr. Wm. Brodie, of Detroit, Secretary.

Dr. Pitcher, of Michigan, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, offered, in a few eloquent remarks, a cordial welcome to the delegates.

The list of delegates who had registered their names was reported by the Committee of Arrangements. The roll was then called by Dr. Caspar Wister, of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, of Delaware, a recess of fifteen minutes was taken, to allow the delegates from the respective States to report one member from each State represented, as a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

At the expiration of the recess, the Association was called to order, and the different

State delegations then reported their choice, respectively, of delegates to serve on the Nominating Committee, which was constituted as follows:

Maine—N. P. Monroe.

New Hampshire—H. Peirce.

Vermont—C. L. Allen.

Massachusetts—H. H. Childs.

Rhode Island—J. E. Warren.

Connecticut—David Garrison.

New York—William Rockwell.

New Jersey—L. A. Smith.

Pennsylvania—John Neill.

Delaware—J. W. Thomson.

Maryland—P. Wroth.

South Carolina—E. Geddings.

Tennessee—J. B. Lindsley.

Kentucky—W. S. Sutton.

Minnesota—C. W. Le Bouillier.

Michigan—M. Gunn.

Ohio—Thos. W. Gordon.

Indiana—Dr. Winton.

Illinois—H. Noble.

Wisconsin—W. H. Brisbane.

Iowa—Dr. McGugin.

U. S. Army—Chas. Tripler.

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**17** In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.

Vol. XIV.—6

After the Nominating Committee had retired, Dr. Pitcher, of Michigan, from the Committee of Arrangements, submitted the following report:—

In conformity to the domestic and social usages of the place of meeting, the committee have to suggest that the sessions of the Association take place in accordance with the following plan, and that they commence and terminate each day at the hours designated therein:—

*Tuesday*—Morning session begins at 11 A. M., and ends at half past 12 M. Afternoon session begins at 3 P. M., and ends at 5 P. M.

*Wednesday*—Morning session begins at 9 A. M., and ends at half-past 12 M. Afternoon, no session.

*Thursday*—Morning session begins at 9 A. M., and ends at half-past 12 M. Afternoon session begins at 2, and ends at 5 P. M.

*Friday*—Morning session begins at 9 o'clock A. M.

This arrangement of the hours of meeting and adjournment conforms, also, to the suggestions contained in the resolutions of Dr. N. S. Davis, of Illinois, and which were, on his motion, referred to this committee for their consideration, by a vote of the Association. Regard for the mover of the resolutions, and the authority of the body by which they were submitted to us, requires from the committee a respectful reply. Your committee, in view of the existing state of our professional literature, feel reluctant to advise a departure from the present mode of labouring to promote a higher degree of culture in those preparing to become members of the medical profession, and to establish in those already engaged in its duties, a habit of recording the results of their observations. They think that the effects of such a change as is contemplated in the resolutions of Professor Davis, and the more amplified expression of his idea, contained in the address of the then President, Dr. Pope, of Missouri, delivered at Philadelphia, in 1855, can be easily foreseen. To a few who are gifted with colloquial powers, and to others who have undergone the discipline required to fit them for public debate, the interest of the meetings conducted upon the plan proposed in the resolutions would be greatly increased, but as the great body of the Association would, voluntarily, it is true, be excluded from participation in these exercises,

the enthusiasm which now characterizes our anniversaries would subside, and with it the professional *esprit du corps* which has been already developed through the instrumentality of the Association. We presume that the objects for which this organization was effected, have not been lost sight of by the majority of its members. Neither can it be pretended that those purposes have been so far accomplished as to justify us in laying it aside, or of diverting it from its original design.

Your committee feel that the profession has no right to rail at the public for misappreciation of it, so long as we continue to admit men into its folds destitute of that knowledge, both in nature and degree, necessary to make a decent appearance in general society, or to fit a man for the more ordinary and less responsible pursuits of life. From the early records of the Association, it appears that this conviction, on the part of the profession in the United States connected with the design of reforming, in certain particulars, the medical schools of our country, led to its organization in 1847, and until its mission in both respects has been accomplished, the committee would reluctantly recommend the adoption of any measure tending, in their judgment, to divert it from the design of its creation. Thus far, the influence of the Association has gradually extended itself into the rank and file of the profession. It has increased the number of writers, given an impulse to the medical mind, and encouraged a useful and laborious class, gratified to observe, and willing to submit their observations to the public, because they can be incorporated into the body of the *Transactions* without being subjected to a sifting criticism. It is true, that in this way, articles have been printed that did not always enure to the credit of the Association, but, at the same time, and by that means, motion and fertility have been given to minds that would have lain fallow and unproductive, which the dread of the conspicuity belonging to a mental gymnasium would have driven into deeper obscurity. The committee, however, whilst they would resist any tendency to radicalism in their own opinions, cannot dismiss the subject without expressing their belief that, in order to secure the objects of our organization, it is necessary to increase the breadth and depth of its base as to elevate the shaft designed to spring from it, for, without such

preparation, the superstructure, however beautiful in aspect, would be of transient duration.

Having arranged the hours for meeting and adjourning, so as to place it in the power of the Association to adopt or reject, without inconvenience, the proposition of Dr. Davis, the committee respectfully ask to be excused from submitting a distinct proposition on the subject.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

Z. PITCHER, Chairman.

The report was accepted.

The President announced the death of one of the ex-Presidents of the Association, Dr. John C. Warren, of Boston, Mass.

Dr. Childs, of Mass., felt compelled to say a few words in this connection. He had been associated with the deceased for more than half a century, and should feel that he had been derelict of duty if he neglected to speak in his laudation. Dr. Warren was the nephew of Joseph Warren, who fell gloriously at the battle of Bunker Hill. He was at the head of his profession in Massachusetts—had been President of the State Medical Society, and occupant of other elevated medical positions. His professional reputation was high, and his personal reputation spotless. His fame was not confined to Massachusetts. Though devoted to medical science, he was not limited to that alone, but paid attention to every branch of literature and art. If young members of the profession would be useful and eminent, they should follow the example of Dr. John C. Warren. To the older, the speaker would point out Dr. W.'s moral character as an exemplar. Such a life as his inevitably terminates in a death beatified by a surety of eternal happiness.

Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, made some remarks eulogistic of the deceased. He alluded to his high reputation—a reputation, he observed, not confined to America, but extending to every corner of the civilized world. Dr. Warren was the Nestor of American surgery. Dr. G. concluded by offering the following:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of this Association at the loss of their late associate, Dr. John C. Warren.

The resolution was adopted, and the President appointed as such committee, Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, Dr. Childs, of Massachusetts, Dr. Wood, of New York, Dr.

Pitcher, of Michigan, and Dr. Geddings, of South Carolina.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 3 P. M.

#### MAY 6, Afternoon Session.

The Association was called to order at 2 o'clock P. M.

The Secretary read letters from the State Medical Society of Tennessee, and from the University of Nashville, inviting the Association to hold its next annual session at Nashville, Tennessee. Also, one tendering the use of the Hall of Representatives of that State for the purposes of said session.

On motion of Dr. Brodie, of Michigan, these were referred to Committee on Nominations.

The Committee on Nominations submitted the following report:—

The Committee on Nominations unanimously nominate the following officers of the American Medical Association for the ensuing year:—

*President*—Dr. Zina Pitcher, of Detroit.

*Vice-Presidents*—Drs. Thomas W. Blatchford, of New York; Wm. K. Bowling, of Tennessee; E. Geddings, of South Carolina; W. H. Brisbane, of Wisconsin.

*Secretaries*—Drs. Wm. Brodie, of Michigan; R. C. Foster, of Tennessee.

*Treasurer*—Dr. Caspar Wister, of Pennsylvania.

The report was accepted, and the nominations unanimously confirmed.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, the President was requested to deliver his annual address.

[We hope to be able to find room in our next No. for this address.]

At the conclusion of the address, on motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association be presented to our late President for the able and interesting parting address he has just delivered, and that he be requested to present to the Committee of Publication a copy, for preservation in our Transactions.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to inform the President and Vice-Presidents elect of their election, and conduct them to their seats.

The President appointed, as such committee, Drs. Atlee, of Pa., Reeves, of Ohio, and Sutton, of Ky.

Upon taking the chair, Dr. Pitcher said—

Although fully aware of my indebtedness for this distinction, to your observance of a custom equivalent in force to positive law, of selecting your presiding officer, in each successive year, from the State in which the meeting of the Association is held, I feel myself more honoured by your partiality, than if I had received the same mark of respect from any other body of men known to the annals of our country.

This sentiment of regard for the body towards which I now hold, by this act of yours, so delicate and interesting a relation, has been inspired by a contemplation of the ideal of the physician, and strengthened by my growing acquaintance with the individuals which compose it.

Being unaccustomed to presiding in deliberative assemblies, I shall throw myself upon the indulgence of the Association, and rely upon the kindness and intelligent co-operation of the individual members for assistance, in performing the duties of the chair.

Whilst thanking you most cordially for this expression of confidence, I can only assure you that such abilities as I possess shall be devoted to the prosperity of the Association and the harmony of its proceedings.

Dr. Frost, of South Carolina, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are due to the retiring officers for the zealous and efficient manner in which their duties have been performed; to our late President, for the courtesy and ability with which he has presided over our deliberations; to all the officers, for their attention to the laborious duties of their stations—not excepting our Committee on Publication, to whom we must feel indebted for the satisfactory form in which the volume of the *Transactions* appears.

On motion of Dr. Gunn, of Mich., it was *Resolved*, That the resolution passed at St. Louis, requiring a majority of the Committee on Publication to be appointed from residents of the place where the meeting is held, be repealed.

Dr. Phelps, of N. Y., offered the following:—

*Whereas*, The pleasure and satisfaction of attending the deliberations of this Association would be greatly enhanced, the duties of the secretaries and reporters facilitated, and order at the same time secured, by the observance of two things, to wit:

first, that the audience be put in possession of the name and residence of the speaker; and, secondly, that they be enabled distinctly to hear what he has to say; therefore,

*Resolved*, That no one be permitted to address the Association, except he shall have first given his name and residence, which shall be distinctly announced from the chair, and the member be required to go forward and speak from the stand, and not more than ten minutes at one time.

A motion to lay on the table was lost. The resolution was then adopted.

At the request of Dr. Gross, of Ky., his report upon "The Causes that Retard Medical Education and Literature," was made the special order for Wednesday at 10 o'clock.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., from the Committee on Prize Essays and Volunteer Communications, submitted the following:—

"The Committee on Prize Essays and Volunteer Communications" report, that some months since they issued a card, which was extensively published in the medical journals, setting forth the terms upon which essays intended for prizes would be received; but that the number of papers presented has been but four.

By referring to the past records of the Association, it is found that the numbers received by preceding committees have been, in 1852, sixteen; in 1853, fifteen; in 1854, nine; in 1855, six; and in 1856, four. Your committee beg leave to call attention to this almost regular and quite rapid decrease in the number of essays presented, for the purpose of having the Association consider whether there be not danger that the number which may hereafter be furnished will be so small as to afford insufficient range of comparison and choice to cause the preference shown to be much valued, if, indeed, presentations do not cease altogether, and whether any means should be devised for preventing such a result.

The essays received by your committee have been subjected to a careful examination; and while admitting that they all possess a degree of merit which would render them suggestive and useful, if given to the profession, still, in their opinion, but one manifests that evidence of careful and laborious investigation, that wide scope and rigid accuracy of logical reasoning, that chasteness of expression and artistic skill in

the presentation of the subject, as to furnish sufficient claim for awarding a prize by this body."

But one prize is, therefore, awarded. The essay selected for this honour bears the title : "An Essay on the Arterial Circulation."

It is regarded by the committee as possessing the merits just alluded to, and while not wishing to give an unqualified endorsement of all the views which it contains, they regard it as possessing not only interest in its physiological and scientific relations, but also real value in its pathological and practical bearings.

The production has considerable length, and by the fulness with which the views advanced are discussed, it partakes as much of the nature of a treatise as an essay. It has, at least, one quality which Lord Bacon considered necessary to a treatise, as distinguished from an essay—it required a degree of leisure on the part of the writer, and will require the same on the part of the reader for him fully to appreciate its value.

The essay bears the motto—" *Una est Veritas.*"

(Signed)

A. B. PALMER, Ch'n.

SAMUEL DENTON.

SILAS H. DOUGLASS,

AB'M SAGER,

E. ANDREWS.

On breaking the seal of the accompanying packet, Dr. Henry Hartshorne, of Philadelphia, Pa., was found to be the successful essayist.

The report was accepted.

Dr. Blatchford, of N. Y., from the Committee on "Hydrophobia, and the Connection of the Season of the Year with its Prevalence," read a report thereon. The committee, in conclusion, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :—

*Resolved*, That the Secretary transmit to the Governor of each State a copy of the statistical part of this report, with the respectful request that he would bring the subject before the Legislature of the State over which he presides, that in their wisdom they may devise and unite upon a plan by which the evil may be mitigated, if not removed.

The Committee on Nominations reported in favour of holding the next annual meeting of the Association at Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Gross, of Ky., moved to strike out "Nashville, Tenn.," and insert "Louis-

ville, Ky." He thought Nashville at present difficult of access.

Dr. Gedding, of S. C., and Linsley, of Tenn., advocated the adoption of the report.

Dr. Gross withdrew his amendment and the report was adopted.

Dr. Wister, of Pa., from the Committee on Publication, made the annual report. It states that the first copies of the *Transactions* of the last session of the Association were issued on the 10th of November, 1855; that 1,100 copies were printed; that the aggregate expense of printing, illustrating, and binding was \$1,922 70; that the distribution of the volume was effected, in every possible instance, by express; that Drs. C. Hooker, of Ct., Alden March, of Albany, J. L. Atlee, of Pa., W. Brodie, of Mich., C. B. Gibson, of Richmond, E. L. Beadle, of N. Y., H. W. Desaussure, of S. C., C. A. Pope, of Mo., D. H. Storer, of Mass., T. G. Richardson, of Ky., J. Moran, of R. I., T. Miller, of D. C., F. E. B. Hintze, of Md., L. P. Bush, of Del., Z. Pitcher, of Mich., and J. B. Lindaley, of Tenn., have rendered essential service to the Association

—some in procuring subscriptions to the volume, and all by cordial co-operation in its distribution; that it is important to secure efficient co-operation in every State by the appointment of gentlemen whose duty it shall be to aid in procuring subscriptions for and circulating the *Transactions*; that Connecticut is especially to be commended for her services in this particular; that not a little embarrassment was experienced by the committee in restoring to the list of permanent members the names of those who had been left off by order of the Association for non-payment of assessments; that they had endeavoured, however, by careful comparison of the various lists, to supply all omissions; that the committee had been reluctantly obliged to omit from the *Transactions* two valuable reports on epidemic diseases—by Dr. L. H. Anderson, of Ala., and Dr. E. D. Fenner, of New Orleans—but, as they had not been presented to the Association, and acted on by that body, there was no other alternative; that the following resolution, passed at the last session, should be strictly enforced :—

*Resolved*, That, hereafter, beginning with the session of 1856, no report, or other paper, shall be entitled to publication in the volume for the year in which it shall be presented to the Association, unless it be placed in the

bands of the Committee of Publication on or before June 1st.

The report further states that the number of volumes of *Transactions* now remaining on hand, is as follows: of Vol. I., 41; of Vol. II., 9; of Vol. III., 32; of Vol. IV., 7; of Vol. V., 316; of Vol. VI., 66; of Vol. VII., 120; of Vol. VIII., 351; that some of the leading journals abroad have expressed a strong desire to complete their sets, and it rests with the Association to determine whether the missing numbers shall be supplied; that, as only seven complete sets of the *Transactions* are now in the possession of the Association, the Committee recommend that no copy of either of the eight volumes which is necessary to the complete sets now remaining shall be disposed of separately, or with any number of volumes short of a complete set.

Dr. Ailee, of Pa., made some remarks upon the report, in the course of which he stated that the Smithsonian Institution had been offered as a permanent place of session for the Association. He concluded by moving that the Committee on Publication preserve five complete sets of the proceedings. Carried.

Dr. Wood, of Philadelphia, moved to refer the nomination of Standing Committees to the Committee on Nominations. Carried.

The same gentleman made a request, in behalf of Dr. Hamilton, that the committee of which Dr. H. is chairman may be continued for another year, it not being prepared to report at present. Granted.

Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky., stated that the Committee on Medical Literature was ready to report.

The President suggested that the reading of the report follow that of the report of Dr. Gross, which had been made the special order for Wednesday, at 10 A. M.

Dr. Palmer, of Chicago, stated that the Committee on Plan of Organization for State and County Medical Societies, was ready to report.

Dr. Pomeroy, of N. Y., moved to reconsider the resolution requiring a member, when speaking, to stand upon the platform, and not to occupy more than ten minutes in his remarks. Lost.

Dr. Smith, of N. J., moved that that portion of the resolution requiring members, when speaking, to take the stand, be rescinded. Carried.

Dr. Ailee, of Pa., moved to refer the

prize essay of Dr. Hartshorne on Arterial Circulation, and the report of Dr. Blatchford on Hydrophobia, to the Committee on Publication. Carried.

Dr. Wister, of Pa., the Treasurer, read his annual report. It recommends that the Treasurer be requested, at an early date after the adjournment of the present meeting, to address a circular to each permanent member, announcing the abrogation of the resolution of 1854—making a yearly subscription to the *Transactions* obligatory—and the consequent restoration to membership of all those dropped from the published list of that year—advertising, also, the practicability of procuring back numbers of the *Transactions*, with information as to the cost at which the series of volumes may be rendered complete, or an entire set furnished by the Association.

Dr. C. Wister presented his annual report as Treasurer, audited by the Committee of Publication. It shows that, after paying all expenses, and the appropriation made last year to the Committee on a Stone for the Washington Monument (\$498 70), there is a balance in the Treasury of nine hundred and fifty dollars and fifty-two cents.

The report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. McNulty, of the New York Academy of Medicine, offered a resolution, that a committee of one from each State be appointed by the Committee on Nominations, to prepare, and report to the Association during the present session, an address to the people of the United States, setting forth the strong claims the medical profession have on their respect, gratitude, and confidence.

Dr. McNulty explained the purpose for which he offered the resolution. Many people, he said, had a prejudice against the medical profession for holding to the dignities of their calling, and entertained the idea that the science of medicine was a collection of absurdities and superstitions. He wanted to show clearly that this is not the fact, and, in this view, he thought the address proposed would have a beneficial effect.

Dr. Kittredge moved to amend the resolution by making it read that every member of the Association should take the stump and defend the cause.

After a few other remarks, the resolution was withdrawn.

Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, stated that Dr.

Wood, of New York, who was then in the meeting, had lately performed an operation in an extraordinary case—removing a jaw-bone—and moved that a time be appointed for the Association to examine the part extirpated.

Dr. Wood said he had not with him the article spoken of by the preceding speaker, but would lay it on the desk of the President this morning.

Dr. Gunn, of Mich., reported the following names of members by invitation: Dr. P. N. Curtis, of Tecumseh, Mich., proposed by Dr. M. A. Patterson, of Tecumseh; Dr. C. West, proposed by Dr. Z. Pitcher, of Detroit; Dr. James Bronson, of Newton Falls, Ohio, proposed by Dr. Thomas W. Gordon, delegate from the Ohio Medical Society; Dr. Benjamin Stanton, of Salem, Ohio, proposed by Dr. Geo. Mendenhall, of Cincinnati; Dr. Eames, of Ohio, proposed by Dr. Stockwell; Dr. N. K. Maniates, of Marshall, proposed by Dr. M. Gunn, of Detroit. The report was adopted.

The President read a communication from Dr. Stewart, chairman of the committee appointed last year to consider the subject of extending the lectures of each chair in medical schools over a period of two years, stating that the views of medical institutions had as yet been imperfectly ascertained, and asking a continuance of the committee. Granted.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., moved that the Committee on Epidemics meet immediately after the adjournment. Agreed to.

The President read an invitation to the Association to attend the session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Albany, in August next—at which time, also, the Dudley Observatory will be inaugurated, and an address delivered by Hon. Edward Everett. The invitation was accepted.

The Association then adjourned to meet on Wednesday morning, at 9 o'clock.

#### WEDNESDAY, May 7, Morning Session.

The Association was called to order by the President, at 9 o'clock.

The minutes of the previous session were read, corrected, and adopted.

The names of the delegates who had registered themselves since the previous report, were read.

The Secretary read communications from the following gentlemen, asking an exten-

sion of time in which to report upon the subjects named:—

Dr. A. J. Semmes, of N. Y.—“Coroners’ Inquests.”

Dr. J. Taylor Bradford, of Ky.—“Treatment of Cholera.”

Dr. D. M. Reese, of N. Y.—“Infant Mortality.”

Dr. E. R. Penslee, of Me.—“Inflammation, &c.”

Dr. J. W. Corson, of N. Y.—“The Causes of the Impulse of the Heart, and the Agencies which Influence it in Health and Disease.”

Dr. Mark Stephenson, of N. Y.—“The Treatment best adapted to each Variety of Cataract, with the Method of Operation, Place of Election, Time, Age, &c.”

Dr. Beech, of Mich.—“Medical Topography, and Epidemics.”

Dr. J. C. Hutchinson, of N. Y.—“The Anatomy and Histology of the Cervix Uteri.”

Referred to Committee on Nominations.

The Secretary announced that he had received the following resolution, adopted at the last meeting of the New York State Medical Society:—

*Resolved*, That the members of the American Medical Association be invited to attend the semi-centennial celebration of this Society, which will occur on the first Tuesday of February, 1857.

The invitation was accepted.

The Secretary read the following communication, dated April 7, 1856, from the Secretary of the Ohio State Medical Society:

Sir—At the annual meeting of this Society, held in June last, at Zanesville, Ohio, the following resolutions were adopted, and I was directed to furnish you with a copy of the same:—

*Resolved*, That the resolution offered by Dr. Grant (a member of this Society, but not at this or at that time a practitioner of medicine, but a lawyer) at the last session of this Society, viz: “That it is not derogatory to medical dignity, or inconsistent with medical honor, for medical gentlemen to take out a patent-right for surgical or mechanical instruments,” was offered at a time when many members had left for their homes, and is not, therefore, the sense of the Society.

*Resolved*, That the said resolution is in direct opposition to the code of medical

ethics adopted by this Society ; and, therefore, be it further

*Resolved*, That said resolution, offered by Dr. Grant, and adopted by the Society, be and is hereby, rescinded.

The communication was ordered to be placed upon the minutes.

The Secretary read a communication from Dr. Hamilton, of Buffalo, N. Y., transmitting the second part of a report upon Deformities after Fracture and Dislocations, and asking for a correction of the minutes of last session in regard thereto. Dr. H. also asked that he be permitted to incorporate, in a volume upon the subject he is preparing for publication, that portion of the report already published by the Association.

On motion of Dr. Brodie, of Mich., the minutes were amended.

Dr. Atlee, of Pa., offered a resolution that the request of Dr. H., in regard to the publication of the report, be granted.

Dr. Lindsley, of Tenn., opposed the resolution. A similar request was denied at the session of the Association held at St. Louis.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., moved to refer the matter to a special committee. Carried.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Palmer, of Ill., Atlee, of Pa., and Hills, of Ohio.

The following gentlemen were admitted as members, by invitation, of the Association : Drs. Edward Cox and S. B. French, of Battle Creek, Mich., introduced by Dr. Gunn ; Dr. O'Donohue, of Battle Creek, introduced by Dr. Coates ; Dr. G. W. Carhart, of Wayne, N. Y., introduced by Dr. Cone ; Dr. S. A. Scott, of Woodstock, C. W., introduced by Dr. Stewart ; Drs. E. R. Thornton, of Belleville, Mich., Holly, of Shiawassee, Mich., Foster, of Unadilla, Mich., and W. H. Stevens, of Mich., introduced by Dr. Denton ; Dr. Thos. M. Franklin, of Lafayette, Ind., introduced by Dr. Rockwell.

Dr. Gunn, of Michigan, moved that those gentlemen from Canada, who are here by general invitation, be admitted in a body, and be requested to take seats on the platform during this morning's session. Carried.

The following gentlemen complied with the invitation :—

Drs. E. M. Hodder, F. R. S. Eng., Prof. of Midwifery and Diseases of Children, Trinity College, Toronto.

Dr. J. H. Richardson, M. R. C. S. Eng., Examiner in Anatomy, University of Toronto.

Dr. Norman Bethune, M. R. C. S. Eng., Prof. of Anatomy, Trinity College, Toronto, C. W.

Dr. Worthy Haswell, M. R. C. of Surgery, Eng.

Dr. A. K. Dewson, College Physicians and Surgeons, New York, Licentiate of Province of the Canadas.

Dr. George Coatsworth, Medical Department University of Buffalo, Licentiate of Province of the Canadas.

Dr. John Tarquand—Woodstock, C. W.

In receiving them upon the platform, the President, Dr. Pitcher, said he was happy to be the instrument of celebrating the nuptials by which we effect a scientific reunion of the two members of the Anglo-Saxon race, which have so long been separated by the political relations having their origin in the separation of the American colonies from the English crown.

Dr. Hodder, in behalf of his Canadian brethren, thanked the Association for the courtesy and kindness extended to them.

Dr. Sutton, of Ky., offered a resolution that 1,000 copies of the address of the late President, Dr. Wood, be published. Adopted.

On motion of Dr. J. B. Lindsley, of Tenn.,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to prepare a suitable minute in reference to the death of our late Secretary, Dr. P. C. Gooch, of Richmond, Va., who fell a martyr while contending with the pestilence in Norfolk, in 1855.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Lindsley, of Tenn., Thomson, of Del., and Mendenhall, of Ohio.

Dr. Gross, of Ky., from committee appointed the day previous, reported the following preamble and resolutions relative to the death of Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston :—

*Whereas*, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from the scene of his earthly labours our late fellow-member, Dr. John C. Warren, of Boston, formerly President of this Association, and for many years Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Harvard University ;

*And whereas*, It is just and proper that, when a great and good man dies, his memory should be cherished by his fellow-citizens, and transmitted unimpaired to posterity for the encouragement of future ages ; therefore,

*Resolved.*, That this Association has learned with profound regret the news of an event which has deprived the American medical profession of one of its oldest, most useful, and most illustrious members—American surgery, one of its greatest ornaments—science, one of its best friends—and humanity, one of its noblest benefactors.

*Resolved.*, That the life of Dr. John C. Warren affords an example of a man who, notwithstanding the possession of ample riches, devoted himself, heart and soul, for upwards of half a century, to the cultivation and advancement of his profession, and to the good of the human race.

*Resolved.*, That this Association deeply sympathizes with the family of Dr. Warren in their bereavement, and that the Secretary be requested to transmit to them a copy of these proceedings.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Gross, of Ky., read a report on "The Causes which Impede the Progress of American Medical Literature." In conclusion, he submitted the following resolutions:—

*Resolved.*, That this Association earnestly and respectfully recommends: 1st. The universal adoption, whenever practicable, by our schools, of American works, as text-books for their pupils. 2d. The discontinuance of the practice of editing foreign writings. 3d. A more independent course of the medical periodical press towards foreign productions, and a more liberal one towards American; and 4th. A better and more efficient employment of the facts which are continually furnished by our public institutions, for the elucidation of the nature of diseases and accidents, and, indirectly, for the formation of an original, a vigorous, and an independent national medical literature.

*Resolved.*, That we venerate the writings of the great medical men past and present, of our country, and that we consider them as an important element of our national medical literature.

*Resolved.*, That we shall always hail with pleasure any useful or valuable work emanating from the European press, and that we shall always extend to them a cordial welcome, as books of reference, to acquaint us with the progress of legitimate medicine abroad, and to enlighten us in regard to any

new facts of which they may be the repositories.

Dr. Phelps, of New York, moved that the report and resolutions, as a whole, be adopted.

At the suggestion of a member, the question was divided. The report was adopted.

Upon the reading of the first resolution, a member proposed to substitute "just" for "liberal" in line 8. Dr. Gross accepted the amendment.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., wished to understand the meaning of the word "practicable," as employed in the resolution (line 3). If it meant that an inferior work by an American author was to be used in our medical schools, in preference to a superior one, treating of the same subject, by a foreign author, he was decidedly opposed to the resolution. If, when the American work was equal or superior to the foreign one, it is to be used, then he had no objection. He alluded to works by eminent English and French authors.

Dr. Gross explained. One of the works alluded to by Dr. P. must of necessity be used in our medical institutions of learning, as there is no work by an American author on the same subject. Foreign works should be used as books of reference, and American books, "when practicable," as text-books.

Dr. Yandell, of Ky., moved that the resolutions be made the special order for Thursday morning. Lost.

Dr. Cobb, of N. Y., was opposed to the resolutions. If adopted and sent out to the world, they savor too much of know-nothingism to make them palatable. [Senation.]

Dr. Leidy, of Pa., was in favour of leaving to teachers of medicine the selection of their own text-books.

Dr. Davis understood there was another report touching upon the subject—that upon "American Medical Literature," by Dr. Breckinridge, of Ky. He moved to lay the resolutions upon the table until that report was read. Carried.

The Secretary read a communication from Dr. P. A. Jewett, of Conn., Chairman of the Committee to Procure Memoirs of the Eminent and Worthy Dead. Referred to Committee on Nominations. Dr. Hooker, of Dr. Breckinridge, of Ky., read a report upon American Medical Literature. On motion of Dr. Hooker, it was accepted

and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Association then adjourned till Thursday morning at 9 o'clock.

*The Excursion.*—The pleasure ride given in the afternoon, on board the steamer Western World, by the medical faculty of this city to their brethren attending the convention now in session here, was a very successful affair. About two hundred ladies and six hundred gentlemen participated in it, and all expressed themselves highly gratified.

The steamer left the dock at 4 o'clock, and, after proceeding some five or six miles into Lake St. Clair, rounded to, and again passed the city at a flying rate, towards Lake Erie, making the distance from abreast the Central Depot to Malden Light in an hour and seven minutes, though carrying but twenty pounds of steam. The weather was such as to confine the company to the cabins of the boat, but the unremitting exertions of the Committee of Arrangements and officers of the Western World, together with the excellent music of Lucke's collision band, rendered the confinement exceedingly pleasant. Dancing commenced shortly after leaving the city, and was continued without interruption until the return of the boat, at half-past nine o'clock.

A bountiful supper was prepared for the company in the after-cabin, in Mr. Wormer's best style.

Before separating for the night, a meeting of the members of the Association was organized on the boat, by the selection of Dr. N. B. Ives, of Connecticut, as Chairman, and Dr. N. B. Palmer, of Illinois, as Secretary.

On motion, Dr. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, Dr. Conwell, of Tennessee, and Dr. H. Monroe, of Maine, were appointed a committee, who reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved.*, That the thanks of the members of the American Medical Association be presented to the Michigan Central Railroad Company, for their liberality in tendering to the Committee of Arrangements for our use, their magnificent floating palace, the steam-boat Western World, for the excursion this afternoon and evening.

*Resolved.*, That our thanks be presented to the captain and officers of said boat for their polite attentions, and especially to Mr.

Wormer and the stewards, for the careful preparation and beautiful arrangement of the luxurious viands provided by the committee for our entertainment.

*Resolved.*, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of the above resolutions to the President of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, J. W. Brooks, Esq., R. N. Rice, Esq., Superintendent, and Chas. B. Swain, Esq., Agent.

#### THURSDAY, May 8, Morning Session.

The Association was called to order by the President at 9 o'clock.

The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

A communication from Dr. Wroth, of Md., relative to a report upon the Medical Topography of the eastern shore of Maryland, and one from Dr. Thomson, of Ky., relative to a report on "Chloroform," were referred to the Committee on Nominations.

The Secretary read a letter from E. S. Lesmoines, of St. Louis, inclosing an autograph letter from M. Dubois.

The Secretary read a communication from J. C. Holmes, Esq., the Secretary of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, presenting to the Association twenty-five copies of the *Transactions* of the Society for 1853, and also the same number of the *Transactions* for 1854.

Dr. Brodie, of Mich., moved that the thanks of the Association be returned therefore, and that one copy be presented to each State represented. Carried.

On motion, Dr. McGugin, of Iowa, was appointed a member from that State of the Committee on Nominations.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

*Resolved.*, That the President shall be authorized annually to appoint delegates to represent this Association, at the meetings of the British Association, the American Medical Society of Paris, and such other scientific bodies in Europe as may be affiliated with us. Adopted.

Dr. Gluck, of New York, offered the following:

*Whereas,* During the present year a medical congress is to be held in Europe; therefore,

*Resolved.*, That the American Medical Association send to that congress four delegates, representing the four sections of the Union.

*Dr. Davis*, of Ill., thought it might be necessary and proper to send a greater number than four. He moved to lay the resolution on the table. Carried.

Dr. Clendenin offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of one be appointed, for a period of three years, with instructions to report progress at each annual meeting of this Society, to investigate the etiology and pathology of epidemic cholera, and that said committee be allowed to add any other members to the same which they think may be necessary to further the objects of the appointment.

On motion, referred to the Committee on Nominations.

On motion of Dr. Mendenhall, of Ohio,

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to strike the name of C. H. Cleveland from the list of permanent members of this Association.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

*Resolved*, That the name of James R. McClintonck be stricken from the list of permanent members.

These expelled members were accused by the movers of the resolutions of having retrograded into quackery.

On motion of Dr. Bissell, of New York,

*Resolved*, That this Association has learned with deep regret the death of one of its members, Dr. Theodore Romeyn Beck, of Albany, N. Y., whose whole life has been devoted to the attainment and promotion of medicine and general science, and that we do hereby express our high appreciation of the excellencies of his character, distinguished by its simplicity, integrity, and firmness of purpose, and by the extent and variety of his acquirements in medical as well as in almost every other department of science.

*Resolved*, That the above resolution be referred to the Committee to Procure Memorials of the Eminent and Worthy Dead, and that they be requested to procure a memoir of the late Dr. Beck, to be published in the *Transactions* of the Association.

Dr. Bloodgood, of Ill., offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That the constitution of this Association be so amended as that hereafter the President shall be elected by ballot, and shall not be resident of the State in which he is elected.

On motion of Dr. Watson, of N. Y., laid on the table.

*Dr. Gunn*, of Mich., reported the following members present by invitation: Dr. Ashley, of Ypsilanti, Mich., introduced by Dr. Brodin; Dr. H. F. Ewers, of Union, Mich., introduced by Dr. B. White, of Saginaw; Dr. Alex. Ewing, of Dexter, Mich., introduced by Dr. Denton; Dr. Reynall, of Dansville, N. Y., introduced by Dr. N. W. Ely; Dr. G. F. McCarthy, of Ind., introduced by Dr. Davis; Dr. M. H. Andrews, of Jonesville, Mich., introduced by Dr. Cone; Dr. J. R. Coates, of Kalamazoo, Mich., introduced by Dr. S. Barrett; Dr. W. H. Stebbins, of Saline, Mich., introduced by Dr. Denton; Dr. D. L. Briggs, of St. Joseph County, Mich., introduced by Dr. Robinson.

Dr. Wister, of Pa., offered the following, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the invitation to gentlemen of the medical profession of Canada, extended to them by the American Medical Association at its session in Philadelphia, be renewed for the meeting at Nashville, Tenn.; and that this Association may be safe from the introduction of unsuitable persons, it is recommended that gentlemen presenting themselves from the Province of Canada should be provided with a letter of introduction to this Association from one of the following gentlemen: Drs. Tarquand, A. Scott, Woodstock, Canada; Drs. Hodder, Bethune, Richardson, Bonell, Haswell, Widmer, Beaumont, Herrick, of Toronto; Drs. O'Reilly, Craigie, Duggan, of Hamilton; Dr. Sampson, of Kingston.

Dr. Gunn, of the Committee of Arrangements, stated, that as several delegates from the east had manifested a desire to go to Buffalo on the magnificent steamer *Western World*, of the Michigan Central Railroad line, the agent had kindly acceded to a request to sail her for Buffalo on Friday (in advance of her regular time), if a specified number would take passage.

Dr. Phelps, of New York, offered the following:—

*Whereas*, It has pleased an All-Wise, but Inscrutable Providence, to visit the city of Norfolk, Va., and vicinity, with a desolating pestilence, equal, or surpassing, any recorded in ancient or modern times, and by which, in a few weeks, forty physicians, either residents or those from abroad, who had promptly rushed to the rescue, among the number of whom was our late Secretary

and Associate, Dr. Gooch, of Richmond—have been swept away, therefore,

*Resolved*, That such an instance of signal and unflinching devotion to the cause of science and of humanity demands at the hands of this national association a passing expression of their high admiration of this, another memorable instance of the unparalleled sacrifices of the profession to the interests of the healing art and of the race.

*Resolved*, That this minute be incorporated in our *Transactions*. Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Ill., Rt. Rev. Samuel A. McCosky, Episcopal Bishop of this diocese, was invited to a seat upon the platform.

The like courtesy was extended to Dr. Mussey, formerly President of the Association.

Dr. Stocker, of Pa., offered the following amendments to the Constitution:—

Amend Article 3 so that it shall read: “Article 3. The regular meetings of the Association shall be held annually, and commence on the first Tuesday of May. The Association shall meet biennially in the city of —. The place of meeting for the intermediate year shall be determined by a vote of the Association.”

Amend Article 4 by providing for one permanent and two assistant secretaries, and also specifying the duties, &c. of each.

Laid on the table under the rule.

Dr. Dorsey, of Ohio, offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That in May, 1858, and every third year thereafter, this Association meet at Washington City, and that the present officers be requested to correspond with the Board of Managers of the Smithsonian Institute, in regard to furnishing necessary rooms for keeping of the archives of the Association.

Laid on the table under the rule.

On motion of Dr. Sheets,

*Resolved*, That it is derogatory to the dignity of the medical profession to notice the works of irregular practitioners in our medical periodicals.

Dr. Frost, of S. C., objected to the introduction of resolutions. He thought it irregular. Reports were the order.

Dr. Davis, of Ill., moved that reports be made the special order. Carried.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., moved to reconsider the last vote, in order to take up the resolutions attached to the report of Dr.

Gross, of Ky., upon the “Causes which Retard American Medical Literature,” Carried.

The resolutions were taken up. The question being upon their adoption—

Dr. Gross read extracts from his report, explained the intent of the resolutions, insisted upon their necessity, and advocated their adoption.

Dr. Davis, of Ill., was opposed to adopting any report. There were now before the Association two reports (the one by Dr. Gross, of Ky., and one by Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky.), presenting directly adverse views. He thought both should be accepted and referred to the proper committee—nothing more.

Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky., said the point at issue is—whether the Association will favour the sectionalism or the universality of medicine. If Dr. Gross’s report and resolutions are adopted we decide in favour of the former.

Dr. Cobb, of N. Y., foresaw the difficulty that would arise in adopting Dr. Gross’s report the day previous.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., moved to reconsider the vote by which the report was adopted. Carried.

He then moved that the report be accepted. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa., the report and resolutions of Dr. Gross, and the report of Dr. Breckenridge, upon “American Medical Literature,” were referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., from Special Committee to which was referred the communication of Dr. Hamilton, reported the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That leave be granted to Dr. F. H. Hamilton to make use of the materials of his report on “Deformities after Fractures,” which is in course of publication by this Association, in his anticipated work upon “Fractures and Dislocations.”

Dr. A. B. Palmer, Professor in the Michigan University, from the Committee on Plans of Organisation for State and County Medical Societies, presented a lengthened and able report, containing numerous useful suggestions, with outlines for the proper organization of local societies, and a series of resolutions in accordance with the views enforced in the report. Accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion, the resolutions were temporarily laid on the table for further action by the Convention.

Dr. Davis, of Illinois, chairman of Special Committee, reported on "The Changes in the Composition and Properties of the Milk of the Human Female, Produced by Menstruation and Pregnancy," in a paper containing numerous valuable details of much interest to the profession and the public, obtained by careful examination and comparison, and showing conclusively the ill effects of lactation, especially during the latter of the periods referred to. Accepted, and referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Chas. Q. Chandler, of Missouri, who was to report on "Malignant Periodic Fevers," submitted, as a substitute, through Secretary Brodie, a paper on "Sulphate of Cinchona," which was received as a "voluntary contribution," and referred to a special committee.

Dr. Johnson, of Chicago, asked further time to report on "Excretions, &c." Referred to Committee on Nominations.

Dr. J. M. Newman, of Buffalo, from Committee on "the Sanitary Police of Cities," presented an elaborate report, embracing details of the various estimated causes of disease in cities, as compared with rural localities, together with numerous valuable statistics of mortality in the largest cities of Europe and the Union, of which the doctor, at the request of the Association, gave a brief verbal abstract. The report evidently embodies a vast mass of useful information, with deductions from it that city life is inimical to health and longevity, and arguments enforcing the urgent necessity for ameliorating the sanitary condition of the populous localities of cities and large towns. Of diseases arising from impure air and insufficient ventilation, classed under the term "zymotic," the report stated that, in 1850, 40 per cent. of all the deaths in the various cities were of that nature. The report also embodied details of the loss of life from cholera, smallpox, &c., giving startling expositions of danger from these sources, and recommends the enactment of laws for compulsory ventilation and cleanliness, as well as for vaccination, &c. Accepted and referred to Committee on Publication.

The President here requested such delegates as would prefer to take passage, on their return, on the Michigan Central Rail-

road Company's steamer Western World for Buffalo, which leaves to-day at 12 M., to signify their wishes.

Adjourned to 2 P. M.

#### May 8, Afternoon Session.

The Association met at 2 o'clock.

Dr. Frost, of Charleston, S. C., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are due to the retiring officers for the zealous and efficient manner in which their duties have been performed; to our late President, for the courtesy and ability with which he has presided over our deliberations; to all the officers, for their attention to the laborious duties of their stations—not excepting our Committee on Publication, to whom we must feel indebted for the satisfactory form in which the volume of the *Transactions* appears.

Dr. A. J. Fuller, of Me., chairman of the Committee on the Best Treatment of Cholera Infantum, read a report thereon, in which he stated that the pathology of the disease was little understood, and that physicians should interchange views on the subject.

The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Green, of N. Y., chairman of the Committee on the Use and Effects of Application of Nitrate of Silver to the Throat, read a report thereon. He asserted that great benefits had been derived from topical medication in thoracic diseases—tuberculosis, bronchitis, &c. The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Flint, of Louisville, chairman of the Committee on the best Mode of Rendering the Medical Patronage of the National Government Tributary to the Honour and Improvement of the Profession, read a report thereon. He denounced the granting of patents by the United States government to "quack medicines,"—stating, however, that it appears, from a letter written by the present Commissioner of Patents, that the practice of the Office has been to discourage such a use of its functions, and that, during the past fifteen years, but four or five such patents have been granted, although from twenty to thirty applications therefor have been made per year. The credit of sanitary improvements, Dr. F. said, were not

due to individuals, but to medical science. Such improvements are never discoveries or revelations, but inductions. The United States government should aid the great cause of medical science by making appropriations for the publication of the Transactions of the National Association, and by paying prizes for the best essays on subjects selected by that Association. The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Committee on Nominations made the following report:—

The Nominating Committee beg leave to make the following report:—

For Chairman of Special Committees for 1857:

Dr. E. R. Peaslee, of Brunswick, Me., on Inflammation, its Pathology and its Relation to the Recuperative Process.

Dr. J. C. Hutchinson, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Charles E. Isaacs, of New York city, on the Anatomy and Histology of the Cervix Uteri.

Dr. J. Taylor Bradford, of Augusta, Ky., on the Treatment of Cholera.

Dr. Mark Stevenson, of N. Y., on the Treatment best adapted to each Variety of Cataract, with the Method of Operation, Place of Election, Time, Age, &c.

Dr. J. W. Corson, of N. Y., on the Causes of the Impulse of the Heart, and the Agencies which Influence it in Health and Disease.

Dr. D. Meredith Reese, of N. Y., on the Causes of Infant Mortality in Large Cities, the Source of its Increase, and the Means for its Diminution.

Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, of Yonkers, N. Y., on Spontaneous Umbilical Hemorrhage of the Newly Born.

Dr. Henry Carpenter, of Lancaster, Pa., on the Use of Instruments in Obstetrical Practice.

Dr. Alex. J. Semmes, of Washington, D. C., on the Measures to be adopted to Remedy the Evils Existing in the Present Mode of Holding Coroners' Inquests.

Dr. J. Marion Sims, of New York city, on the Treatment of the Results of Obstructed Labour.

Dr. J. B. Flint, of Louisville, Ky., on the True Position and Value of Operative Surgery as a Therapeutic Agent.

Dr. G. Volney Dorsey, of Piqua, Ohio, on the Causes and Cure of Indigestion,

especially in relation to the Therapeutic Indications to be derived from the Chemical Composition of the Deposits in the Urine.

Dr. C. B. Coventry, of Utica, N. Y., on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, and the Testimony of Skilled Witnesses in Courts of Justice.

Dr. Jos. Leidy, of Philadelphia, Pa., on Human, Animal, and Vegetable Parasites.

Dr. M. D. Darnall, of Bainbridge, Ind., on the Value of a Strict Attention to Position in the Treatment of Diseases of the Abdomen.

Dr. George Sutton, of Aurora, Ind., on Milk Sickness.

Dr. Clark J. Pease, of Janesville, Wis., on the Blending and Conversion of the Types of Fever.

Dr. B. S. Woodworth, of Fort Wayne, Ind., on the Best Substitute for Cinchona and its Preparations in the Treatment of Intermittent Fever and Malarious Neuralgia.

Dr. Franklin Hinkle, of Marietta, Pa., on the Use of Cinchona in Malarious Diseases.

Dr. Henry V. Campbell, of Augusta, Ga., on the Nervous System in Febrile Diseases.

Dr. John Neill, of Philadelphia, Penn., on the Laws Governing the Deposit of Bone.

Dr. John W. Greene, of N. Y. city, on the Intimate Effects of Certain Toxicological Agents in the Animal Tissues and Fluids.

Dr. George Suckley, U. S. A., on the Medical Topography and Fauna of Washington Territory.

Dr. Jas. Cooper, of Hoboken, N. J., on the Flora of Washington and Oregon Territories.

Dr. Chas. E. Isaacs, of N. Y., on the Intimate Structure and the Pathology of the Kidney.

Dr. Israel Moses, of New York city, on the Diseases Incidental to Europeans from Temperate Climates in their Transition through Central America.

Dr. T. W. Gordon, of Georgetown, Brown County, O., on the Etiology and Pathology of Epidemic Cholera, to be continued three years, and with power to add any other members.

Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago, on the Excretions as an Index to the Organic Changes going on in the System.

Dr. D. D. Thomson, of Louisville, on the Remedial Effects of Chloroform.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

*Committee on Publication.*—Drs. Francis G. Smith, of Pa., Chairman; Caspar Wister, of Pa.; Samuel L. Hollingsworth, of Pa.; Samuel Lewis, of Pa.; H. F. Askew, of Del.; Wm. Brodie, of Mich.; R. C. Foster, of Tenn.

*Committee on Prize Essays.*—Drs. Wm. K. Bowling, of Tenn., Chairman; E. B. Haskins, of Tenn.; Thomas Lipscomb, of Tenn.; A. H. Buchanan, of Tenn.; B. W. Avent, of Tenn.; W. A. Cheatham, of Tenn.; Paul F. Eve, of Tenn.

*Committee of Arrangements.*—Drs. C. K. Winston, of Tenn., Chairman; Ira Conwell, of Tenn.; William D. Haggart, of Tenn.; J. L. C. Johnson, of Tenn.; F. A. Ramsay, of Tenn.; Geo. Grant, of Tenn.; J. B. Lindsley, of Tenn.

To fill vacancies in the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics:—

*New Hampshire*—Dr. V. P. Fitch, of Amherst.

*California*—Dr. Robert Murray, of Fort Miller.

To fill vacancies in the Committee upon a Uniform System of Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths:—

*Vermont*—Dr. Adrian T. Woodward, of Castleton.

*Connecticut*—Dr. Wm. B. Casey, of Middleton.

*Virginia*—Dr. R. W. Haxall, of Richmond.

*California*—Dr. Arthur R. Stout, of San Francisco.

They recommend the continuance of the "Committee to Procure Memorials of the Eminent and Worthy Dead," and that the report, as far as prepared, be referred to the Committee on Publication.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

*On Medical Education*—Drs. E. Geddings, of S. C., Chairman; C. W. Le Bouillier, of Minnesota; G. F. Mitchell, of Ohio; S. W. Clanton, of Ala.; S. W. Butler, of N. J.

*On Medical Literature*—Drs. R. Hills, of Ohio, Chairman; D. W. Yandell, of Ky.; R. R. Porter, of Del.; H. A. Johnson, of Ill.; Charles E. Swan, of Maine.

The President stated that Dr. Anderson, of Ala., chairman of Committee on Medical Education, had sent in his report. It was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report from Dr. Wroth, of Md., on the Medical Topography and Epidemics of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report from Dr. Cain, of S. C., on the Epidemic of Yellow Fever in Charleston, in 1854, was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report from Dr. Fenner, of La., on the Medical Topography and Epidemics of Louisiana, was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Secretary Brodie stated that he had received a letter from Dr. Dillard, U. S. N., appointed on the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics, saying that he could not act, in consequence of having received no appointment as delegate to the Association from the Surgeon-General.

Dr. Gunn, of Michigan, said three communications had been handed to the Committee of Arrangements by the Secretaries, which they (the Committee) had not time to examine. He asked that a special committee be appointed to report on volunteer communications.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., offered the following, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the volunteer communications in the hands of the Committee of Arrangements be referred, with all other such communications, to a special committee, to be appointed by the Chair, residing at the place of publication of the *Transactions*; and if, in their judgment, the papers are worthy, they be referred by them to the Committee on Publication, to go into the *Transactions* of the Association.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. A. Stillé, S. Jackson, and J. B. Biddle.

The authors and titles of the volunteer communications were announced by Secretary Brodie, as follows:—

By Dr. C. J. Chandler, of Rocheport, Mo.—"On Sulph. Cinchona in Periodic Diseases."

By Dr. Isidor Gluck, of New York—"On Formation of Gunshot Wounds, &c."

By Dr. G. P. Hachenberg—"On an Improved Method of Applying Compression to the Scrotum."

A member of the Committee on a Uniform System of Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, stated that they were unable to make a report at present, in con-

sequence of the death of their chairman, Dr. Wilson, of Conn.

The Committee on Medical Literature for 1855, was continued for another year.

Dr. Neill, of Phil., offered a resolution that no medical preparation, account of surgical operation, or anything else, designed or calculated to give notoriety to an individual, be laid before the Association, until reported upon by a special committee.

Dr. Wood, of N. Y., presumed that this resolution was aimed at him. He had come here with the description of a disease never before described by surgeons—[phosphorous disease of jaw-bone.] He had felt great delicacy in inviting the attention of the Association to the subject, and it was not until after consultation with many of the most prominent members of the body, that he had permitted a friend to do so. As for the charge of seeking notoriety, he denied it *in toto*. He had aimed at no such purpose, and he felt wounded at the tone of the resolution.

Dr. Neill disclaimed the intention of personal allusion in the resolution he had offered. That resolution embodied a principle which never should be violated.

After some further discussion, the resolution was withdrawn; and on motion of Dr. Gross, his resolution adopted on the first day of the session was stricken from the minutes.

Dr. Gross, of Louisville, tendered, in behalf of the medical profession and the citizens of Louisville, an invitation to the Association to meet in that city in May, 1858. Placed on file.

Dr. Dorsey, of Ohio, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, by the American Medical Association, That the Committee of the Etiology and Pathology of Cholera be instructed to memorialize the Congress of the United States, requesting that honourable body to grant every necessary assistance which can or will promote the objects for which the committee has been appointed.

The Secretary read a communication from the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of England, thanking the American Medical Association for their present of the eighth volume of their *Transactions*. Ordered to be placed on file.

Dr. Wister, of Pa., offered the following, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be

appointed by the President, to correspond with the proper officer of the Smithsonian Institute, inquiring into the possibility of procuring a chamber in that Institution for the uses of this Association.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Wister, of Pa., Hall, of Washington, and J. Neill, of Pa.

Dr. Phelps, of N. Y., offered the following, which were adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Fire Department of the city of Detroit, for the use of their large and commodious hall, so amply furnishing to us accommodation for the convenient transaction of business.

*Resolved*, That the urbane deportment and elegant hospitalities of the profession, and of private individuals, as well as the polite attentions of citizens generally, demand of this Association a high appreciation of the cultivated manners of this city of the West, and which has tended greatly to enhance the pleasure of the session here of the delegates from abroad.

The Association adjourned.

SATURDAY, May 9.

The Association was called to order by the President at 9 o'clock.

The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., moved that Dr. Coolidge, U. S. A., be substituted in the place of Dr. Finley, U. S. A., as a member of the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics. Dr. Palmer said he made the motion by request. Carried.

The following additional members (present by invitation) were reported: Dr. Sanders, of Monroe, Mich., introduced by Dr. Rice; Dr. R. K. Rodgers, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., introduced by Dr. Brodie; Dr. Dwight, Nims, Calhoun county, Mich., introduced by Dr. Gunn.

Dr. Atlee, of Pa., offered the following, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That all voluntary communications hereafter presented to the Association, shall be referred to a Special Committee, to be appointed by the President on the first day of each annual meeting, whose duty it shall be to examine such communications and report upon the propriety of their pre-

sentation and reference to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Lindsley, of Tenn., from the Special Committee appointed the day previous, reported the following preamble and resolutions:—

*Whereas*, The exhibition of high courage and of self-sacrificing devotion to the good of others is ever honourable to a profession by whose members it is manifested, and worthy of their remembrance and emulation; therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the death of P. Clai- borne Gooch, of Richmond, Va., who nobly volunteered his services during the pestilence at Norfolk, we recognize a loss to this Association, the profession, and the country. His arduous and successful labours as Secretary of the meetings at Charleston and Richmond, merited the regard of this Association. The zeal, ability, and industry manifested by him as founder and editor of the *Stethoscope*—the first medical periodical established in the State of Virginia—showed his devotion to the cause of medical progress and activity, and the manner of his death gave signal evidence that he was one of whom his country might well be proud.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Secretary to the relatives of the late Dr. Gooch.

The resolutions were adopted, and had the usual reference.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Ill.,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Registration have leave now to present a partial report, which is hereby referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Denton, of Mich., offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of three shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to enlist some enterprising publisher to aid in collecting and arranging material for an American Medical Directory.

On motion of Dr. Watson, of N. Y., laid on the table.

Dr. Leidy, of Pa., offered the following:—

*Whereas*, It is the object of this Association, in the award of prizes for communications on subjects appertaining to medical science, to encourage the progress of the latter; and as this result cannot be better attained than through original investigation and discovery—

*Resolved*, That hereafter an annual prize

of —— dollars be awarded for the best memoir or essay founded on original investigations of the author; and in case of no memoir or essay being presented worthy of such award, the prize money to be appropriated towards the expense of publishing and illustrating such memoirs as may be subsequently deemed worthy of an award.

The resolutions, together with the suggestions of the Committee on Prize Essays, as to whether any means can be devised to cause an increase of the number of essays presented, were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Drs. Leidy, Wood, and C. D. Meigs, of Pa.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution being in order, Dr. Smith moved that the proposition to amend by providing that "any member who omits to pay for the published *Transactions* for three successive years, shall be considered as withdrawn," be laid upon the table until the next annual meeting of the Association. Carried.

The Secretary read an invitation to the Association to attend the next annual meeting of the Massachusetts State Medical Association. Accepted.

Dr. R. K. Smith offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That a Special Committee be appointed to report to the next meeting of the American Medical Association a classification of those diseases which involve a derangement of the medical manifestations.

Adopted, and Dr. Smith appointed chairman of said committee, with power to choose his associates.

On motion of Dr. Atlee,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Publication be requested to transmit annually to the Epidemiological Society, of London, a copy of our *Transactions*.

On motion of Dr. Gunn, of Mich.,

*Resolved*, That any new medical institution not heretofore represented in this body, be requested to transmit to the Secretary, with the credentials of its delegates, evidence of its existence, capacity, and good standing.

Dr. Phelps, of N. Y., offered a preamble and resolutions relative to the relation existing between medicine and religion. Laid on the table.

Dr. McGugin offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That a Special Committee be appointed to report on the subject of "Stomatitis Materna."

Adopted, and Dr. McGugin appointed chairman of such committee.

On motion of Dr. Bailey, of Ill., Dr. Davis, of Chicago, was requested to continue his observations on the changes produced in the composition and qualities of milk by pregnancy and menstruation; also the best substitute for the mother's milk when weaning becomes necessary; and report at the next meeting of the Association.

A report from the Committee on Railroads, &c. was read, and the same committed to next meeting.

On motion of Dr. Smith, of N. J., the resolutions of Dr. Palmer, offered the day previous, were taken from the table and referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa., the thanks of the Association were returned to those railroads that had evinced a liberality in conveying delegates to and from the Association.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Ill.,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association be presented to the press of the city of Detroit, who have taken so much interest in reporting the proceedings of this meeting.

The Association then adjourned to meet in Nashville, Tenn., in 1857.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Medical Graduates in 1856.—We are enabled to make the following additions to our list of Medical Graduates in 1856:—	
Medical Department of Pennsylvania College	37
Medical Department of Yale College	13
University of Louisville	61
Memphis Medical College	10
Med. Dep. Transylvania Univ.	11

*New Medical School in the City of New Orleans.*—Under the general law of the State of Louisiana, an institution has been duly organized and incorporated under the title of the "New Orleans School of Medicine," with powers to teach medicine and grant diplomas.

*California State Medical Society.*—The Sacramento Medical Society and the San Francisco County Medico-Chirurgical Society have issued an invitation to the medical men of California to meet in Convention in Sacramento, on the second Wed-

nesday in March, 1856, for the purpose of organizing a State Medical Society.

We trust that the invitation has been responded to, that a State Society has been formed, and that it will be represented at the meeting of the American Medical Association next year.

*Jefferson Medical College.*—Dr. THOS. D. MUTTER has, in consequence of impaired health, resigned the chair of surgery in this school which he has for many years filled with signal ability. He carries with him in his retirement the best wishes of numerous friends for the restoration of his health and the happiness of his future days.

Prof. S. D. GROSS, of Louisville, Ky., has been unanimously elected to the chair vacated by Dr. Mutter. The high reputation which Dr. G. enjoys, affords the assurance that, should he accept the appointment, he will ably perform its duties.\*

*OBITUARY RECORD.*—Died, in Boston, May 4th, 1856, JOHN C. WARREN, M. D., aged 78 years. Dr. Warren stood pre-eminent as a skilful surgeon; as a lucid teacher; and as an ardent and untiring student even to the last hours of his existence, and has closed his earthly career full of years and full of honours.

### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*Quintuple Birth.*—The wife of a guard in the service of the Northwestern Company, Birmingham, was safely delivered of five children—three boys, alive, and doing well, and two girls born dead.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, April 19, 1856.

*Population of Algeria.*—Some interesting facts have recently been published by the French Government. The population of Algeria, at the end of 1854, amounted to 151,691 Europeans, of which number there were—50,662 males; 30,112 females; 56,613 young persons under 15; 8,304 not specified. Of these 151,691 inhabitants, 79,577 were French, and the remainder natives of various countries, those of Spain numbering 39,339, and the English only 434. The indigenous tribes numbered 2,036,098, viz.:—625,296 males; 630,800 females; 800,202 under 15. During the

\* June 9. Dr. Gross, we understand, has accepted.

three last years there had taken place among the Europeans 17,687 births, and 19,004 deaths. With a very small proportion of aged persons, the mortality in several localities had been much greater among the Europeans than that of France during the cholera year, 1849; this mortality being considerably less among the other Europeans than among the French inhabitants. The mortality among the French is also on the increase. Thus it was—

In 1842—1844 44.3 per 1000

" 1845—1847 46.0 " "

" 1848—1850 67.6 " "

" 1851—1853 47.9 " "

giving a mean of 51.6 per 1000, or 1 death in 19.3 inhabitants.—*Ibid.*

**PROF. OWEN.**—This gentleman has been appointed the head of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, with a salary of four thousand dollars a year. It is expected that Mr. Quexett will be appointed his successor in the curatorship of the College of Surgeons.

**Poisoning by Aconite Root.**—Dr. F. Headland lately (March 15) read a paper on this subject before the Medical Society of London. After glancing at the history of the plant, and its use as a poison in ancient times, he referred to a number of statements made by authors in the Middle Ages, which showed that the poisonous properties of the plant were well understood by them. Poisonings by aconite, in modern times, were usually accidental. A number of cases in which the leaves and shoots had been eaten with fatal effects, were first briefly remarked upon, and then the cases of poisoning by aconite root, which had been recorded in this country during the last few years, were divided under two heads—(1.) Cases of an over-dose of some preparations given as medicine. This was generally the tincture. (2.) Cases in which the root had been eaten by mistake as an article of diet.

1. Four cases of poisoning by the tincture have been recorded during the last five years. Others are said to have happened. Of these four persons, two died from taking one fluidrachm of Fleming's tincture; one died from the effects of twenty-five minimæ of the tincture of the London Pharmacopœia; a fourth barely escaped from a dose of fifteen minimæ of the same. Two of these cases were attributable to carelessness in

dispensers; one, to ignorance of the power of the preparation. The author made these recommendations with the hope of obviating such accidents for the future: Firstly, to carry out the plan of the Dublin College, requiring druggists to keep all dangerous preparations in square or angular bottles, and the others in round bottles. Secondly, that the tincture of aconite, if used, should be made of one uniform strength (as far as possible.) At least three different tinctures are in use in this country. Or, thirdly, that it would be still better to discard this tincture altogether, as an uncertain preparation, substituting for it a solution of aconitina of one fixed strength, containing  $\frac{1}{500}$ th of a grain in each drop.

2. In nearly all the cases in which aconite root had been eaten as food, the singular error has been made of mistaking it for the root of the common horseradish, and so scraping and eating it with roast beef. The author read accounts of four cases of this fatal error, which have occurred of late years, the last of them being the recent tragedy at Dingwall, in Scotland, when three gentlemen lost their lives. To show that such mistakes could not be committed by careful persons, specimens and drawings of horseradish and aconite root were exhibited and compared. The acid but not pungent taste of the aconite parings, and the pinkish colour which they assume when exposed to the air, were among the points noticed. The author, having noticed a singular case of poisoned coffee, proceeded to state there were two ways in which a case of aconite poisoning could be recognized: (1.) By the symptoms, which are very characteristic. (2.) By obtaining some of the poisonous principle, by a chemical process, from the contents of the stomach and matters vomited, and then trying its action upon small animals, or on the tongue, etc. There are no distinctive chemical tests for it; but  $\frac{1}{500}$ th of a grain of the alkaloid (aconitina) would kill a mouse, and  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th placed on the tip of the tongue would cause tingling and numbness. With regard to the treatment of such cases of poisoning, Dr. Headland recommended the immediate and free administration of animal charcoal, mixed with water. This to be followed by a zinc emetic, then by brandy and ammonia. The charcoal has the power of retaining and separating the poisonous alkaloid, and if we have rendered help in time, the patient may perhaps be saved.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, April 5, 1856.

**OBITUARY RECORD.**—Died, in London, May 1st, 1856, aged —, GEO. J. GUTHRIE, well known as one of the most eminent military surgeons of our day.

— in London, on the 24th April, 1856, in the 90th year of his age, HENRY CLUTTERBUCK, M.D. Dr. C. was for nearly seventy years, an active member of the profession, during all which period his life was one of steady and continued industry. For fifteen years he edited the *Medical and Chirurgical Review* (1795-1809), and was the author of several valuable works. He was three times President of the London Medical Society, and for upwards of sixty years attended its anniversary meetings.

— at Hull, on the 13th April, 1856, ROBERT HULL, M. D., in the 62d year of his age. Dr. H. was the senior physician of Norwich, Physician of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Physician to the Eye Infirmary, author of a work "On the Morbid Eye," &c.

— At Paris, April 16th, aged 53, M. VIDAL (DE CASSIS), Surgeon to the Venereal Hospital of Paris (where he was M. Ricord's colleague), of long-standing renal disease. M. Vidal was universally respected. He was the author of an important work on surgery, in five volumes, which is a text-book in the French schools; also of a Treatise on Venereal Diseases.

— At Paris, April 24th, Dr. Sandras, Physician to the Hôtel Dieu, and the author of a well-known work on the nervous system.

**To READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.**—The present No. has been delayed a few days, in order that we might give an authentic report of the proceedings of the late meeting, at Detroit, of the American Medical Association; and we must take this opportunity of acknowledging our obligations to the Secretary, Dr. Brodie, for the facilities he has afforded us in accomplishing this.

It will be observed that the present No. contains the completion of Mr. Brown's valuable work "On some Diseases of Women admitting of Surgical Treatment."

In our next No. we shall commence the publication of a new work by CHARLES WEST, M. D., entitled "Lectures on the Diseases of Women." It embodies the results of ten years' observation in the wards of a hospital; is of an eminently practical and useful character, and will, we feel confident, fully maintain the character established for the Library Department of this journal by the works which have preceded it.

### NEW BOOK FOR THE "LIBRARY DEPARTMENT."

In the next number of the *News*, for July, 1856, will be commenced the publication of

#### WEST'S LECTURES ON THE DISEASES OF WOMEN,

from early sheets, furnished by the author. The high commendation bestowed on Dr. West's "Lectures on the Diseases of Children," which appeared in the *News* some years since, and the attention excited by his work on the "Os Uteri," which more recently passed through its columns, induce the publishers to believe that in securing the present work for their subscribers they will give entire satisfaction. The vast clinical experience acquired by the author, both in private practice and as physician-acconcheur to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the plain practical character of his writings sufficiently vouch for the value of this new production of his pen, and indicate it as especially belonging to the class of works which the publishers have constantly aimed at supplying to their subscribers. The FIRST PART, which is now ready, is devoted to "DISEASES OF THE UTERUS," and constitutes a complete treatise on that important, but obscure class of affections.

The concluding portion of Todd and Bowman's "Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man" has not yet appeared in London. When ready, it will be furnished in a form suitable for mailing, at a low price, and due notice will be given of the fact, so that those who may wish to complete their copies can send for it.

PHILADELPHIA, June 1, 1856.